

GENA2212

Debates in Human Values

Lecture: Wednesday, 2:30pm – 4:15pm

Venue: NAH 213

Lecturer: Dr FAMING, Manynooch; Office hour: By Appointment

Email: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Description

This course discusses the ongoing issues under modernity and globalized world context. Within these contexts people share similar ‘values’, such as education, economy, freedom, sentiment, taste, beliefs, etc. that one holds to ‘oneself’ and/or to/against ‘others’. The course also leads students to discuss how and why we have come to hold certain values. Through a socio-cultural perspective, the course introduces several fundamental themes and debates in human values. The course provides no black or white answers and/or values but to provide students with analytical skills to these debates.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a reflexive skill in understanding human values;
2. Critically reflect and self-reflect values in one’s own and/or a cross-cultural context;
3. Apply key theoretical concepts to analyze values in one’s own context and/or cross-culturally.

Course Requirements

1. In class:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| A. Class Participation: | 15% |
| B. Group Presentation: | 20% |

2. Independent Projects:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| C. 3 Reflexive Memos: | 30% |
| D. Final Paper: | 35% |

Course Assessments details

A. Class Participation (including attendance) 15%

- **Readings**
 - Having done the readings and brought them to class
 - Bring your reading notes
- **Discussion**
 - Share your thoughts and questions in class
 - Volunteer answers to others' questions
 - Volunteer to respond to the blackboard discussion post
- **Commenting on group's presentation**

Each student will contribute to the group comments to the presentation. Please note that the grades given by you will affect the presenters' grade as well as your own.

B. Group Presentation 20%

You will be assigned into a group of 4-5. Each group will have to choose a topic discussing issues on values as an individual, economic, political, gender, religious belief, society, etc. This will be conducted in each week of the class meeting. Please submit your presentation file to me either before class or by the end of your presentation.

C. 3 Reflexive memos 30%

Each student will submit a reflection of between 500-800 words. You will reflect on one or two values from the cases discussed during the class or on your own readings listed in this course. *A few samples of reflection are available on Blackboard.* Submission before class. The due dates are Week 4, 6 and 8.

D. Final Essay 35%

Students will write a 6-8 page final paper (or about between 1,500-2,000 words) that draws on careful reading of and conversation with class themes and texts to critically analyze and advance debates in human values. The paper is not meant to give definite answers or judgments to the debates, but to demonstrate students' intellectual skills in approaching the debates.

Note 1: The paper is due on **Friday, 7 December 2018.**

Note 2: Submit a soft copy (with the signed VeriGuide receipt) to Blackboard.

Note 3: Save your final paper in **Word format**, and scan your signed VeriGuide receipt into PDF format. The final paper and the VeriGuide receipt should be uploaded as two separate files.

Note 4: Please name your final paper file **2212Final Paper Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **2212VeriGuide Last name First name**.

The both reflections and final papers are to be **double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format. No PDF format.** Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php. Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person's words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university's policy on academic honesty at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page (PDF) to Blackboard.

Weekly schedule

Week 1 (Sept. 5) – Introduction: Hamlet and the Tiv

Bohannon, Laura. 2002 (1966). "Shakespeare in the Bush," in *Conformity and Conflict*, eds. James Spradley and David McCurdy, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 23-32.

Week 2 (Sept. 12) – Who are we?

Quinn, Naomi and Holly F. Mathews. 2016. "Emotional arousal in the making of cultural selves," *Anthropological Theory*, Vol. 16(4) 359-389. **OR**

Strauss, Claudia. 2006. "The Imaginary," *Anthropological Theory*, Vol. 6(3) 322-344.

Optional:

Hong Kong Free Press. "Crazy Rich Asians: Hollywood and the Communist Party share a simplistic idea of what it means to be Chinese," by Kristen Han, 25 Aug. 2018.

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2018/08/25/crazy-rich-asians-hollywood-communist-party-share-simplistic-idea-means-chinese/>

Lehman, Claire. 2018. "The Evil of Cultural Appropriation," *Tablet Magazine*, 11 June 2018,

<https://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/263933/cultural-appropriation>

Theme I: Disgust, Forbidden, Unthinkable

Week 3 (Sept. 19) – Animals and Us

Marvin HARRIS. 1986., "Chapter 9. 'Dogs, Cats, Dingoes, and other Pets.'" In *Good to Eat: Riddles of food and culture*. London: Allen&Unwin.

Optional:

New York Times, 18 June 2015, "Chinese City Defends Dog Meat Festival, Despite Scorn" by Amy Qin.

<http://sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/18/q-and-a-peter-j-li-on-the-clash-over-eating-dogs-in-china/>

New York Times, 24 June 2015, "Q. and A.: Peter J. Li on the Clash Over Eating Dogs in China" by Shaojie Huang. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/24/world/asia/dog-eaters-in-yulin-china-unbowed-by-global-derision.html>

Essed, P., 1991. Ch. 3: Knowledge and Comprehension of Everyday Racism, in *Understanding everyday racism: an interdisciplinary theory*, Newbury Park: Sage Publications. Pp.73-118.

Week 4 (Sept. 26) – Dead or Alive?

Film screening: A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness

Optional:

Butalia, Urvashi. 2003. "When culture kills", *New Internationalist*, Dec 2003, Issue 363, p.5

The New Yorker, 19 July 2016, "The outrages 'honor killing' of a Pakistani social media star" by Saira

Khan, <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-outrageous-honor-killing-of-a-pakistani-social-media-star>

Long, Susan Orpett. 2003. "Becoming a Cucumber: Culture, Nature and the Good Death in Japan and the United States." *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1 (Winter, 2003), pp. 33-68.

Flemming, Rebecca. 2006. "Suicide, Euthanasia and Medicine: Reflections Ancient and Modern." *Economy and Society*, Vol. 34, No. 2: 295-321.

Lee, Raymond L.M. 2008. "Modernity, Morality and Re-Enchantment: The Death Taboo Revisited."

Sociology, Vol. 42, No. 4 (August 2008), pp. 745-759.

Week 5 (Oct. 3) – Violence or Peace

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, and Philippe Bourgois. 2004. "Making Sense of Violence." In Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Philippe Bourgois, eds. *Violence in War and Peace*, pp. 1-32. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub. **OR**

Lutes, Steven, and Michael J. Sullivan. 2004. "Violence by the Book: Redefining the Legitimate Use of Force in Municipal Policing." In Myrdene Anderson, ed. *Cultural Shaping of Violence: Victimization, Escalation, Response*, pp. 135-146. West Lafayette, Ind.: Purdue University Press.

Optional:

SCMP, 27 Sept. 2014. "Occupy Central is on: Benny Tai rides wave of student protest to launch movement" reported by Timmy Sung, Ernest Kao and Tony Cheung, <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1601625/hong-kong-students-beat-us-it-benny-tai-declares-start-occupy-central>

Gan, Wendy. 2017. "Puckish protesting in the Umbrella Movement," *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, vol. 20(2) 162-176

Week 6 (Oct. 10) – Sexuality: Unthinkable Pleasure or Forbidden Sin?

1a. Kereishi, Hanif. 2011. "It's a sin: the *Kama Sutra* and the search for pleasure", *Critical Quarterly*, April 2011, Vol. 53(1), pp. 1-5. **OR**

1b. Edgerton, Anna. And Sotirova, Ina. 2011. "Sex and the barrio: a clash of faith in Latin America." (REPORTAGE). *World Policy Journal*, Winter, 2011, Vol.28(4), p.34-41

2. Carole S. Vance and Ann Barr Snitow. 1984. "Toward a Conversation about Sex in Feminism: A Modest Proposal," *Signs*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (Autumn, 1984), pp. 126-135

Optional:

SCMP. 5 August 2015. "Skewered on US talk show 'Conan O'Brien', 'breast assault' case makes a boob of Hong Kong", reported by Laura Ma. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-crime/article/1846744/skewered-us-talk-show-conan-obrien-breast-assault-case>

Fahmy, Amel, Mawaheb T El-Mouelhy and Ahmed R Ragab. 2010. "Female genital mutilation/cutting and issues of sexuality in Egypt," *Reproductive Health Matters*, Vol. 18, No. 36, Privatisation (November 2010), pp. 181-190

Amy DeRogatis. 2005. "What Would Jesus Do? Sexuality and Salvation in Protestant Evangelical Sex Manuals, 1950s to the Present," *Church History*, Vol. 74, No. 1 (Mar., 2005), pp. 97-137

Week 7 (Oct. 17) Chung Yeung Festival (No Class)

Theme II – Human Values in A Modern Economic World

Week 8 (Oct. 24– Education for Who and for What?

Levinson, B and Dorothy Holland. 1996. "Ch. 1: The Cultural Production of the Educated Person: An Introduction," in *The cultural production of the educated person: critical ethnographies of schooling and local practice*, Albany, NY: State University of New York Press. pp: 1-15.

Paul Morris and Edward Vickers. 2015. "Schooling, Politics and the construction of identity in Hong Kong: the 2012 'Moral and National Education' crisis in historical context," *Comparative Education*, 51:3, 305-326. DOI: 10.1080/03050068.2015.1033169

Optional:

SCMP, 20 Aug. 2015, "How my top school grades got me into top university courses: Four Hong Kong students explain the pressure to succeed", report by Shirley Zhao. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/articl>

HKFP, "Student group slam Education Bureau for suppressing separatist talk in schools" by Chantal Yeun, 16 Aug. 2016, 7.48pm. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2016/08/16/student-groups-slam-education-bureau-suppressing-separatist-talk-schools/>

SCMP, 28 Aug 2017, "Legislator creates way to report 'patriotic content' in Hong Kong schools, amid 'brainwashing' claims," reported by Peace Chiu. <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/education-community/article/2108659/legislator-creates-way-report-patriotic-content>

- SCMP staff, 12 Aug 2017, "Brainwashing: What is it and how effective can it be?," <http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/health-environment/article/2106418/brainwashing-what-it-and-how-effective-can-it-be>
- EDB, "Moral-National Education Curriculum Guide (Primary 1 to Secondary 6)," [http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/moral-national-edu/MNE%20Guide%20\(ENG\)%20Final_remark_09102012.pdf](http://www.edb.gov.hk/attachment/en/curriculum-development/moral-national-edu/MNE%20Guide%20(ENG)%20Final_remark_09102012.pdf)
- Weis, Lois and Kristin Cipollone. 2013. "'Class work': producing privilege and social mobility in elite US secondary schools," *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, 34:5-6, pp. 701-722.

Week 9 (Oct. 31) – Work as Lifestyle?

- Mathews, Gordon. 1996. "Ch.4: *Ikigai* in Work and Family," in *What makes life worth living?: How Japanese and American Make sense of their worlds*. Berkeley, LA: University of California Press. pp: 57-70.
- Berger, Peter. 1964. 'Some general observations on the problem of Work' in *The Human Shape of Work*, edited by Peter Berger. New York: Macmillan. Pp. 211-241.

Optional:

- Schwartz, Berry. 28 Aug. 2015. "Rethinking Work", *New York Times*, Sunday Review, Opinion. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/30/opinion/sunday/rethinking-work.html?ref=opinion>
- Dozema, Jo. 1997. 'Forced to Choose: Beyond the voluntary v. forced prostitution', in *Global Sex Workers: Rights, resistance and redefinition*, edited by Kamala Kempadoo and Jo Doezema. New York: Routledge. Pp. 34-50.
- Pei-chia Lan. 2003. "Maid or Madam? Filipina Migrant Workers and the Continuity of Domestic Labor," *Gender and Society*, Vol. 17, No. 2, Global Perspectives on Gender and Carework (Apr., 2003), pp. 187-208

Week 10 (Nov. 7) -- Leisure for Social Classes?

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1987. "What makes a social class? On the Theoretical and Practical Existence of Groups," *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 32 (1987), pp. 1-17.
- Gans, Herbert J. 1996. 'The uses of poverty: The Poor pay all' in *Mapping the Social Landscape: Reading in Sociology*, edited by Susan J. Ferguson. Mountain View: Mayfield Publishing Co. Pp. 265-270.

Optional:

- Ma, Kit-wai Eric. 2001. 'The Hierarchy of Drinks: Alcohol and Social Class in Hong Kong' in *Consuming Hong Kong* edited by Gordon Mathews and Tai-lok Lui. Hong Kong: HKU Press. pp. 117-140.
- Roberts, Ken. 2004. 'Leisure Inequalities, Class Divisions and Social Exclusion in Present-day Britain', *Cultural Trends*, Vol. 13, No. 50, June 2004, pp. 57-71.
- Dong Jinxia. 2001. 'Cultural Changes: Mobility, Stratification and Sportswomen in the New China' in *Culture, Sport, Society*. Vol. 4, No. 3 (Autumn 2001). Pp. 1-26.

Week 11 (Nov. 14) -- Hong Kong Core Values: Which ones are they?

- Mathews, Gordon. 2000. "Ch. 4: What in the world is Chinese: On the cultural identities of Hong Kong intellectuals in the shadow and wake of 1 July 1997," in *Global Culture/Individual Identity: Searching for Home in Cultural Supermarket*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 121-165.

Optional:

- Berman, Sheri. 2018. "Why identity politics benefits the right more than the left," *The Guardian*, 14 Jul. 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/jul/14/identity-politics-right-left-trump-racism>
- Hong Kong Government. "Brand Hong Kong: Core Values." At http://www.brandhk.gov.hk/en/#/en/about/communicating/core_values.html
- Sunday Examiner*. 2011. "Editorial: Core Values of Hong Kong." The Roman Catholic Church of Hong Kong. At <http://sundayex.catholic.org.hk/node/689>

RTHK radio, “Programme 75: The Rule of Law” broadcast on 14 Aug. 2016.

<http://programme.rthk.hk/channel/radio/programme.php?name=radio3/thebigidea&d=2016-08-14&p=5234&e=370822&m=episode>

New York Times, 24 Sept. 2014. “Is Autonomy Possible for Hong Kong?” in *Room for Debates* Column.

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2014/09/29/is-autonomy-possible-for-hong-kong>

Kent Ewing for HKFP, “Hong Kong Should Protect its core values, as the Communist Party’s only claim to legitimacy is destined to fade”, 4 Sept. 2017.

<https://www.hongkongfp.com/2017/09/04/hong-kong-protect-core-values-communist-partys-claim-legitimacy-destined-fade/>

Week 12 (Nov. 21) – Freedom of Speech

Guest Speaker: Dr. Joseph Chan, Veteran Journalist.

He Xiaoqing Rowena. 2016, “The 1989 Tiananmen Movement and Its Aftermath,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. UK: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.

1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.157.

<http://asianhistory.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277727-e-157?rskey=bvGtnu&result=1>

Optional:

Clarke, Judith and Tim Hamlett. 1995. “Freedom of Expression in Hong Kong During and After the Transition to Chinese Sovereignty,” *Free Speech Yearbook*, 33:1, 65-77.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08997225.1995.10556183>

Hong Kong Free Press. “Honour, morality and the lost art of ‘doing the right thing’” by Tim Hamlett, 21 April 2018. <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2018/04/21/honour-morality-lost-art-right-thing/>

The PULSE: “Hong Kong’s freedom of speech.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jimhgOEs18>, aired 9 July 2010.

Week 13 (Nov. 28) – Group Presentations

Each group will be given a 20min. + 10min. Q&A time allowance. The orders of the groups will be randomly assigned.

Week 14 (Dec. 5) – Group Presentations (cont.) + Conclusion